

March 18, 2013

The Ways and Means Committee

RE: Hearing on the Challenges of Achieving Fair and Consistent Disability Decisions

To whom it may concern;

I am writing with regards to my adult daughter, Patricia, who was injured at age 9 from a bicycle vs. pick-up truck accident in May, 1991. I am her mother, Kathryn and have cared for her since her accident. She sustained a traumatic brain injury which has left her with diminished mental capacity of about age 12, has uncontrolled complex partial seizures, and has severe cervical spinal stenosis and osteoarthritis all as a result of the accident. While her seizures were 150 per month, with the help of fantastic doctors in Chicago, they are now down to about 25 per month. She needs 24/7 constant care to prevent serious injury or death and is unable to live on her own.

She is currently receiving SSI of \$710.00, foods stamps for herself and her daughter, and receives skilled nursing while I am working. She does not cook, clean, or contribute to any part of her daughter's rearing. She needs stand-by assistance while in the shower, total assistance of washing her hair, and shaving her under arms. She uses a rolling walker whenever her legs are too weak or unsteady to ambulate on her own. She is in some kind of pain on a daily basis and must be medicated.

To put it bluntly, my reason for writing you is **IF** reductions and cuts are made to SSI and Home & Community Based Waivers, I would not be able to work, pay taxes, and provide for my family any longer. It would send all three of us into financial ruin and homeless. I am a very hard worker, have always worked 60 hours a week until very recently, and I consider myself an upstanding citizen who always tries to find the good in every person.

What I don't seem to understand is why our government has gotten way too big for their britches, spends like there is no tomorrow, and continually shoves new laws and legislature down the throats of its citizens while exempting themselves. How can anyone in America get paid their regular annual salary and insurance after only serving 1 term in Congress?

I think that before the government decides to cut benefits from all senior citizens, all disabled individuals, and from all children in the US who cannot fight back, we need to **cut ALL of the government's wasteful spending first and foremost**, then start eliminating all of the extra dead weight from Congress, next should be deep and severe cuts for the President and all of his pork belly spending, including all of the Mrs. vacations and recreational spending while the working poor cannot even think of taking a vacation. Talk about entitlements, it begins at the White House and Congress. Reduce, reduce, reduce!!! Then maybe you can find a few other things to cut while you are focusing on the debt reduction before coming after those who are unable to stand up for themselves. Shame on you and shame on us (We, the people) for letting you get away with it for such a long time.

While I do not like the government helping my daughter and grand-daughter, I have no choice. She cannot live on \$710 a month....can you? I didn't think so. I can't either. Stop cutting from the bottom and start at the top and then work your way down.

Take a cue from the American citizens that are out there working themselves to the bone to give their family food, shelter, and clothing. **YOU TOO**, can learn to live on a modest budget just like we do. That is the way it is supposed to be. Get with the program before it is too late.

MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA in spite of herself because nobody else will!!

Respectfully,

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This letter pertains to my daughter, Patricia R. Casey at the above address who receives SSI and community & home based waivers.